

I respectfully request that you not weaken the rules that help preserve competition and diversity among the owners of American media.

I understand that you are currently reviewing rules for media ownership under Docket 02-277. It appears likely that you will seriously relax the rules. If that happens, one company may be allowed to own the local newspaper, several TV and radio stations, and the cable TV system in the same community. There would be fewer owners of networks, stations, and newspapers nationwide.

Media ownership would be concentrated among fewer companies, and the public's ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints would be compromised. Plus, it would likely result in higher costs for businesses that advertise in local media, and those costs would likely be passed onto consumers.

As an American citizen, I am told to consider myself one of many the "owners of the airways". I am absolutely opposed to any further media consolidation. The quality of information distributed by American broadcasters must always remain top notch. Americans understand that the public interest is not being served by deregulation that reduces competition.

Please re-instate its traditional media ownership rules for the sake of competition and democracy. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Daniel M. Gardiner